

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



JAPAN AGENCY COLPORTEURS PREPARING FOR THEIR DAY'S WORK BY AN  
EARLY MORNING STUDY OF THE BIBLE AND DEVOTIONAL PERIOD

(See page 77)



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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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## The Bible—Japan's Book!

By the Rev. Karl E. Aurell, Acting Secretary, Japan Agency\*

**A**N officer, in the early days of missions in Japan (1875), wrote to a certain missionary: "Give us the gospel first and the hospital afterwards, for we cannot afford to wait for the gospel." This statement expresses the innermost condition as well as longing of the hearts of the Japanese, such as King David in ancient times expressed when he said: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for the living God."

An eminent Japanese Christian emphatically asserts that the Japanese are very religious. The mythology and history of Japan bear him out. The comparatively well-preserved shrines and temples throughout the empire today prove it. The more one truly knows of things Japanese, the easier it is to join St. Paul of olden times in the statement: "I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious." Their conceptions and expressions of religion differ from that of the Christian; nevertheless the bent of their hearts are toward the mystical or spiritual. Since the religion of the Bible is pre-eminently spiritual or mystical,—“great is the mystery of godliness,”—it suits them. Christianity rose in the Orient and is not so difficult for the Japanese to understand as is often thought and said. Interpretation of Christianity by accidental instruction and living not infrequently makes it difficult of appreciation.

One of our good American ambassadors once said: "Give the old Book a chance."

That is what the Bible Societies have done and are continuing to do. It is the Bible which stands true to life and brings knowledge of the verities the hearts of men everywhere long for; and it has won a great and lasting place for itself in Japan.

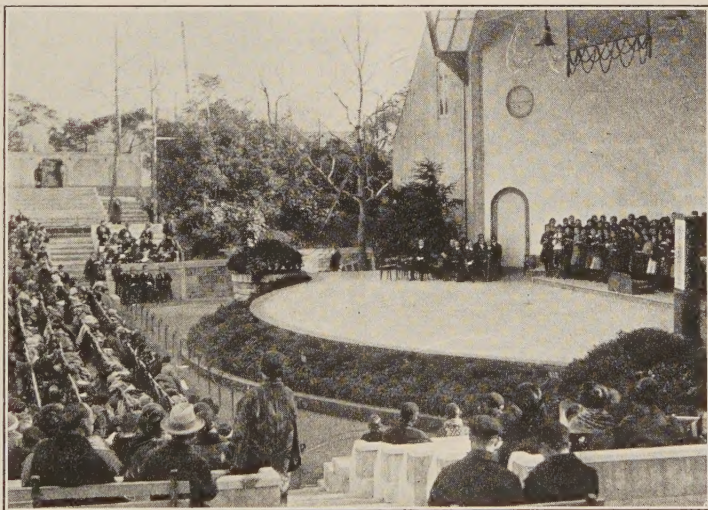
The fruits of Christianity are found all over Japan; but, after all, that is not what grips and converts hearts. This people, as well as any other, cannot be satisfied with the mere gifts. Their hearts long to get into vital touch with the Giver.

Therefore Bible spreaders have no hesitation in claiming that it is the unadulterated religion of the Bible — "God's wisdom in a mystery, even the wisdom that hath been hidden, which God foreordained before the worlds unto

our glory"—that appeals to the true inner self of this people.

The Bible Societies are giving them this Book without note or comment or man's interpretation. Every year thousands of letters to the Bible House in Tokyo indicate that the Japanese all over the country are profoundly impressed by it. Without a doubt there is a great future for Bible circulation in Japan. "Give the Bible a chance," and it will surely take and hold this empire for Jesus Christ. For, as some one has strikingly said, "the Bible is not a wayside well built over a single spring, but a mighty river into which a million springs have poured their waters."

\*Except when otherwise stated the articles from Japan in this issue are by Mr. Aurell, or from his annual report.



PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IN HIBIYA PARK, TOKYO. A view of the platform and front rows of the audience. A large group of young men and women sang Christmas songs finely and impressively.



## A Motive, an Objective, and an Achievement in Japan

**S**INCE, practically, all the members of the Agency return to Tokyo for the New Year holidays, a full attendance at our annual conference is a regular thing.

Our two days' conference, at the beginning of 1925, afforded us a special time of feasting upon the Word of God for the strengthening of our own hearts. Although, in the beginning of every year, we set up a certain goal before us in reference to the circulation to be attained, "constant conscious communion with God" remains as our daily motto. The source of our strength, endurance, and enthusiasm is in the enjoyable fellowship we have with the God of the Book which we spread. Nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm. Bible distributors who are conscious that they are called of God and know, without a shadow of doubt, that they are doing that for which God sent them, are buoyed up by an incentive which engenders enthusiasm, the character of which is absolutely unknown to those outside the genuine Christian spiritual sphere.

One speaker spoke on "The Bible is the world's greatest masterpiece." The greatest reason why the Bible is the world's greatest masterpiece is because of the great Masterpiece Jesus Christ it presents to the world. Another speaker took us to the Book of Habakkuk and picked out a number of good things for our meditation. Each of them with their implications was brought home to our hearts in a simple and practical way.

We were thus prepared to consider big things in respect to the work of the year that was ahead of us. We all knew that the unprecedented circulation of Scriptures the previous year was largely due to a generous free distribution of the half million volumes sent out by the Home Society after the earthquake. We did not dare to expect to reach a figure in 1925 that would equal that of 1924. Therefore, we agreed to fix our goal at the same figure—600,000 copies. All were satisfied that that was within the possibility of achievement, and in earnest prayer we consecrated ourselves to the task.

With the happy exception of a few more workers put in the field, no particular change took place in the personnel. The Lord has graciously kept all our workers in good health. Bad weather or bad roads or any other inconvenience have not been allowed to become an excuse for taking a day off. The enthusiasm continued undiminished throughout the year.

Of our honored first group of eight colporteurs Mrs. Suzuki merits the palm for selling the largest number of books—a total of 63,754 copies. Mr. Kamiyama comes next in order with 62,403 copies; the third man, Mr. Seki, 61,261 copies; the fourth man, Mr. Suzuki (husband of the first mentioned), 60,131 copies. The remaining four of this group averaged 50,633 copies. The achievement of these eight colporteurs is wonderful.

While our colporteurs carried on with phenomenal success in the rural parts of our



(Left to Right) MRS. SUZUKI, MR. KAMIYAMA, MR. SEKI

Each sold a daily average of 170 copies of Scripture throughout the year.

territory, the staff at the Bible House, by the use of the postal service, got in touch with thousands of Christian leaders, both laymen and ministers, who, in replying, also loaded the mail service with cash orders. Every afternoon our assistants in the sale and packing rooms had to put in both excessive work and hours, in order to "clean up" the orders that had come in during the forenoons. Sometimes it would take two days to pack and send out the orders of one day. We have had the best of good times every day in attending to the "King's business"! The following tables and accounts will prove it:



Scriptures Printed and Purchased in 1925			
Printed		Purchased	
Bibles .....	18,000	Bibles .....	1,974
Testaments .....	99,000	Testaments .....	4,462
Portions .....	864,002	Portions .....	234
Braille .....	1,990		
Total .....	982,992	Total .....	6,670

The grand total of books published and purchased in 1925 was 989,662 copies.

Details of Circulation						
	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	For Blind	Totals	Amount (Yen)
Sales by depository.....	8,778	49,868	30,625	1,292	90,563	64,719.08
Sales by colporteurs.....	551	11,640	694,916	347	707,454	27,086.56
Donations .....	73	12,451	73,523	567	85,614	5,264.15
Indirect circulation .....	1,104	5,868	6,240	24	13,236	8,957.00
Total Circulation in 1925.....	10,506	79,827	804,304	2,230	896,867	106,026.79

Comparison of Circulation					
Circulation in 1922.....	13,090	70,854	125,390		209,334
" " 1923.....	10,134	56,962	276,492		343,588
" " 1924.....	10,295	61,400	699,512	567	771,774
" " 1925.....	10,506	79,827	804,304	2,230	896,867
Increase over 1924.....	211	18,427	104,792	1,663	125,093
Grand total of circulation in 1925—896,867 copies			Average circulation per day... 2,491 copies		
Average circulation per month..... 74,739			Average circulation per hour... 104		

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# The First President of the United States

INTEREST has been aroused, and newspaper comments are being made, over an article by Abram Wakeman in the *New York Herald Tribune* of February 21, 1926, under the question "A President before Washington?" A reproduction of a proclamation by "His Excellency, Elias Boudinot, Esquire, President of the United States in Congress Assembled," dated June 24, 1783, and other quotations from official records were therein set forth, arguing that Elias Boudinot was the first President of the United States.

It is an interesting technical claim, perhaps, but, technically also, until the Constitution was adopted and a President elected under it, there was no such office or office holder as "President of the United States."

Dr. Boudinot rendered his country important service, being twice a member of the Continental Congress, and being chosen its President on November 4, 1782. As such he signed the treaty of peace with England after the American Revolution. He lived nearly forty years longer, but we find no record that he, or anyone else, took issue with the statement that Washington was the "First President of the United States."

As a leader in its organization and its first President, Dr. Boudinot always has been held in high esteem by the American Bible Society.

What he thought of being its first President is revealed in the following extract from his letter of acceptance:

"I am not ashamed to confess that I accept of the appointment of President of the American Bible Society as the greatest honour that could have been conferred on me this side of the grave."

And this was written after he had been President of Congress. He followed this letter of acceptance by a donation to the Society of \$10,000, a very large donation for those days, and the equivalent of many tens of thousands of dollars at present.

On the dais in the room of the Board of Managers, in the Bible House, is the chair in which tradition says Dr. Boudinot sat in presiding over Congress, and which was presented to the Society by him. The portrait of Dr. Boudinot, by Sully, which hangs in the Board of Managers' Room, is considered one of the finest and most valuable of early American oil portraits.

It is interesting to note that the second President of the American Bible Society, a portrait of whom also adorns the walls of the Managers' Room, the Honorable John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, helped to negotiate the treaty with Great Britain which Dr. Boudinot signed.



# Colporteurs at Work and Some Results in Japan

## Some Statistics

Institutions visited	Number of people reached	Copies sold
129 Middle and high schools...	57,139	61,826
105 Girls' schools .....	34,959	55,456
78 Sewing schools .....	5,136	12,162
71 Public schools .....	2,018	2,758
187 Public schools .....	8,860	12,495
69 Railway stations .....	6,514	9,942
61 Post offices .....	4,207	6,950
29 Courthouses .....	874	1,458
60 Police quarters .....	1,237	2,639
46 Hospitals .....	2,879	6,879
126 Silk mills .....	38,339	65,564
59 Factories .....	10,861	13,808
47 Firms .....	5,166	5,428
70 Banks .....	1,544	2,214
11 Military troops .....	3,836	2,476
15 Boats .....	482	339
1 Jail .....	95	180
7 Tobacco Bureau .....	5,448	2,194
6 Churches .....	....	2,750
1,177	189,594	267,518

To the worldly minded the thought may come—"To what purpose? A large number of these books will be destroyed, some burned, some unread, some laid aside on shelves and forgotten." Yes; but it will not be so with all of them. Notice the following:

In ordinary house-to-house work 490,791 houses were canvassed and 459,936 books sold.

During the year 1925 alone the Bible House in Tokyo received orders for New Testaments from at least 665 individuals as a direct result of the selling of portions. And from what we have observed of past years, orders like that will continue to come in for years and years as a result of such work. Besides that there are countless souls we will never know of in this life who already have benefited, and still will be benefited from such seed-sowing.

### Earnestness and Determination Count

As a rule when our colporteurs get a chance to talk to people, they are sure of good sales. Calling on the officers at a certain silk mill, Mr. Seki met with a very prompt, not to say rude, refusal. He surprised them by returning equally as prompt an answer, in which he said: "I beg your pardon—do not turn me down like that! Your employees need these books, and I strongly feel they should have a chance to get them!" The feeling and determination

with which he said that were effective; for at once he was taken to another room and told to wait a bit. Being kept waiting a rather long time, he earnestly prayed that nothing would occur to hinder him from accomplishing his purpose. Finally, he was directed to another part of the mill, where 180 employees had been called together, and was told—"You may speak to these about fifteen minutes—that is all the time we can allow you." Mr. Seki is a fast speaker and can say much in fifteen minutes; yet he was anxious not to exceed the allotted time, and was going to stop on the minute when some one called out—"Go on with your speech. Keep on." He did not hesitate, and he said: "My fifteen minutes speech must have become forty minutes long."

The result was that 712 portions were eagerly bought in that mill. More than that, as he prepared to depart, a sister of the proprietor told



THE FORCE WHICH MADE 1925 THE GREATEST YEAR OF THE JAPAN AGENCY IN THE CIRCULATION OF THE SCRIPTURES  
The circulation totaled 896,867 volumes. Mr. Aurell, in charge, is the second from the left.

him that she was very glad the books had been put in the hands of the employees, and she prayed that those holy words might lodge deep in their hearts. In addition to that, Mr. Seki had the pleasure of getting the Christian minister in that locality in touch with the mill, and this pastor also became very glad for the opening of another avenue of service for God.

### Jesus' Books Not Wanted

This same worker reported many similar incidents—too many to relate. The following, however, is too good to omit:



He met with a similar refusal in another mill. The proprietor said, "Jesus' books and such like are absolutely useless in a place like this. Why, just the other day I urged the girls to buy instruction books on sewing, and only six of them were interested enough to buy. That being the case in respect of books of such importance for women, I do not believe you could sell a single copy of that Jesus' book. Besides, I hate Christianity!" Mr. Seki replied, "You may dislike Christianity, but I am sure you would like to have earnest and diligent working girls in your mill. Please let me give them a real Christian talk. I may not sell one book, as you say. That will be all right." Very reluctantly consent was given. After our worker had spoken, the proprietor arose, and, to his great surprise, earnestly urged the girls to buy and read the books the man had brought. There were only 90 girls present,



COLPORTEURS UNPACKING CASES OF SCRIPTURES

During the year they emptied 430 cases bringing approximately 650,000 volumes of Scriptures from the printers.

but 390 copies of God's Book were left in their hands; and when Mr. Seki said good-bye to the proprietor, he exclaimed, "My! Christianity certainly influences people as nothing else can!"

#### "Go Ahead"

The chief of a certain village said to a colporteur: "Buddhism has the right of way in this place; but it is powerless. I believe Christianity is 'far better'; therefore, go ahead and sell as many of your books as possible." Before he left the office, the staff there alone bought 28 copies of portions. Approaching the entrance of the grammar school of that village, he found in large script over the door—"Without love human life is hopeless." The principal welcomed him and urged the whole staff of teachers to buy his books.

#### Forgot That They Had Objected

A factory manager, who at first sternly objected, finally permitted a colporteur to address a group of his employees. The manager and his wife, both, made it a point to be present to hear what he would say. They were profoundly impressed—forgot they had objected, and not only became enthusiastic in seeing to it that their employees bought portions, but ordered for personal use a well-bound Bible and Testament.

#### Became a Seeker from Reading the Gospel of Mark

One day, at the office of an express company, a young man said, "Last year, while I was in another city, I bought and read the Gospel of Mark. I was deeply impressed and ever since have been wanting to go to church to learn more particularly about Christ. What is required of one who goes to church?" The colporteur had the privilege as well as the joy to tell this earnest seeking man just what he yearned for, and that any church was open and would welcome him.

#### Immediate Fruit—Two Girls

After some hesitation, a principal of a large sewing-school consented to have Mrs. Suzuki speak. All the girls became eager to learn more about the living Saviour. Besides the marvelous result of selling 2,100 portions in the school, the following day two of the girls came to her lodging place and earnestly sought to obtain the "Faith that saves." It was a great joy for our good worker to lead them to Christ and commit them to the pastoral care of the Episcopal Church in the town.

#### The Policeman Was Amused and Glad

At a middle school, in Hokkaido, the principal resolutely refused to have any of our books sold on the school premises. The colporteur, therefore, decided to wait outside the gate until the school was dismissed. He sold 240 copies of his books to the returning students. When the principal heard of this, he concluded that our worker forced the books on the students and at once rushed to the 'phone and reported it so to the police. The police came posthaste and looked into the matter. The man who came was simply amused at what had happened to the principal and glad for the success of the colporteur.

#### Contrariwise

In contrast to the above, at the grammar school, he was welcomed by the principal. He urged all his teachers to buy portions, and, personally, bought twenty copies for the scholars of the highest grade. He said: "From now on an hour every week I will give that class a Bible talk." A total of eighty copies were left in that grammar school.



### A Discouraged Superintendent

When Mrs. Suzuki called at a certain silk factory, asking for permission to sell portions, the superintendent said in replying: "I have not been in charge of this concern very long. Somehow, whether it is because so many girls and general assistants have been thrown together here, at any rate deplorable things occur. I have lectured them and done my best to better the situation. For a time some improvement was apparent, and I was encouraged. But, later in the year, the good that seemed to have been done was completely forgotten. It did not last. I realize that personally I stand in need of a special faith and power to be able to influence these employees more effectively." Having said that, he hurried out and called all the employees into a certain room and addressed them in the presence of our worker. Then he gave her opportunity to speak. While the superintendent's speech had ethical qualities in it, our worker's speech had quite a different ring. She flooded their ears with a testimony of what Jesus Christ had done for her, and that he could do the same for them, etc. The sixty or possibly seventy employees were completely subdued under a powerful something they had never experienced before. When she offered them the books, they actually scrambled for them, and 240 copies were sold almost faster than they could be counted.

When Mrs. Suzuki left the factory, nine girls were awaiting her by the roadside. They told her that they had resolved to be different girls as a result of what they had learned that day. They would read these books, and their desire was to become sincere Christians.

### Could Not Read—Would Have It Read

At a mining town one man said: "I cannot read; but if your books are about Jesus Christ, I will buy them and have my friend read them to me." While the exchange of money and books was made, the man added: "At the time of the last war, I was way up in Siberia. One day I received a comfort-bag from a Christian minister. This act of the minister left a deep impression on me, and my mind and heart have been open for Christianity ever since." An elderly lady standing by, hearing what was said, of her own accord stepped up to the worker and said: "If that is such a good book, even though my religion is different, I want my grandchildren to read it. Please let me have a set of them."

### "Your Sins Are Heavier"

The following is one of the many interesting incidents Mrs. Hayashi, our faithful night-fair Bible seller, has given me. One night, a young

man came to her stand and picked up a certain copy of the Bible and remarked: "My! That is a heavy book." Mrs. Hayashi was led to answer: "But the weight of that book is nothing in comparison with the weight of your sins." This entirely unexpected remark startled the young man extremely much. He looked at her, but said nothing, dropped the book, and hurried away. Late in the night, when she was getting ready to put away the Bibles and return home, the young man again appeared and said to her: "Say, I do not know of anything in all that has happened to me in the past, that startled me so much as your remark that my sins are heavier than that book. The thought that my sins are heavy does not leave me. I've tried to forget it, but I can't. I've come back to tell you it is true. My sins are heavy." He bought a good copy of the Bible, and although she has not seen him since, at later occasions she has learned that other young men had been urged by him to provide themselves with Bibles.

### A True Christian

A lonely Christian was found in the town of Suzuka, Shinshu Province. Formerly he had been an adherent of native cults or so-called religions; but, about six years ago, he was wonderfully converted to Christ. From that time on he had been burdened for the people of his town. He felt he must take the gospel of Christ to every person in the town. He had prayed to God every day, that in some way his desire might be realized.

One day he heard of the arrival of our colporteurs and for what purpose they had come. He was overjoyed. He enthusiastically welcomed them, taking their coming as an answer to his many years' daily prayer. He assisted them with transportation of baggage, carried books, and did other things—in fact he did all he could to show his appreciation of their work.

### Powerfully Enthused

The manager—a woman—of one of the hotels at which our workers lodged was powerfully impressed by the earnestness and diligence of our workers. She was a member of a Congregational church, and she was gripped with a desire to try her hand at selling portions. Therefore, one day, she went to a suburb of the city and actually sold 300 copies. It was a great surprise to our workers as well as to the woman herself. It also proves that any Christian who has a genuine experience of salvation and the boldness of the Holy Spirit can sell Bibles. It is not done for any personal pecuniary benefit, but for the love of the Lord and of souls.



## A Trip to Hokkaido and Saghalien

*Last summer, a group of colporteurs was sent by Mr. Aurell to make a canvass of the islands of Hokkaido and Saghalien. The pictures here given and that on the cover were taken during this campaign. A fortnight of their time was spent in conjunction with the Rev. F. O. Bergstrom, who is in charge of the Railway Mission in Japan. Mr. Bergstrom made a report, excerpts from which follow. The fine and energetic spirit of the workers is revealed by the story and pictures.*

**W**HILE we crossed the channel from Hokkaido to Saghalien, the night of the 12th of August, we talked together about this venture and wondered quite a bit as to what kind of experiences would be met with, because to us all Saghalien was a new and un-



THE COLPORTEURS WHO TOOK THE SCRIPTURES TO HOKKAIDO AND SAGHALIEN

They spent four and one-half months, canvassing six cities and 135 towns and selling 224,764 portions of Scripture.

known place. Your colporteurs were almost sure a lot of those portions could not be sold; and it was hard to refrain from thinking and talking about what to do with them, if such would be the case.

But, believe me, those colporteurs were "live wires." We had no more than landed in Odomari and obtained a bite to eat, when they found out where there was a girls' school in the town which had not yet taken summer vacation, and immediately sought and obtained permission to introduce their books there. Many books were sold that very day.

They then went to work with maps, dividing the town into six sections,—one section for each man,—and in less than three days the town of 15,000 population was canvassed;—no; they had to stop before it was finished, because the allotted stock for that town was exhausted.

While in Odomari your workers were able to arrange for a lecture meeting with the harbor construction laborers and their families, and I was asked to be the principal speaker. Some seventy or eighty people attended, and listened most attentively. At the close of the meeting, fifty or more sets of portions (four copies in a set) were taken right there and paid for by the head man.

In one of the principal towns (Maoka), your

colporteurs had been at the post office and not only sold a goodly number of portions, but had also been given permission to address the whole staff, consisting of sixty men and women. When I arrived there after them, I, too, got permission and spoke for an hour to the same staff. I asked them if they would not like to buy New Testaments and give away the portions previously bought to friends. They seemed to like the suggestion, and over twenty copies were taken. Besides that, the postmaster himself purchased a copy of the best edition of the whole Bible, remarking as he did so, "This Bible shall lie in the post office for free use by all employees who may wish to read it"—and he was not a professed Christian.

At every place the portions which had been sent ahead were insufficient; so another 5,000 copies were wired for and sold. Yet three or four of the largest towns were not entirely covered, and a number of smaller places not even touched. All this took place in the short space of two weeks.



AT AN AINU HUT IN HOKKAIDO

"The aborigines gladly received the colporteurs and eagerly bought portions."

**N**OTICE—The One Hundred and Tenth Annual Meeting of the American Bible Society, for the transaction of business, will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., at Christ Church, Second Street above Market, on Thursday, May 13th, at 11 a. m. Special services in connection with the one hundred and tenth anniversary will be then and there held. Members of the Society and delegates of the Auxiliary Societies are cordially invited to attend.



## Tracing Results

By the Rev. A. F. Ragatz, D. D., Secretary, Western Agency

THE following letter of thanks gives one a glimpse of what the Scriptures must have meant to many who received them last year. The writer says: "We moved here from the East five years ago. My husband was in poor health, and it was hoped the change would do him good. We had just enough money to get out here and file on our homestead. The first year we had a good crop; but since then we have had nothing. After my husband died, the children and I tried to make a living, but, year after year, the crops failed, and God alone knows what we have suffered. Our Bible got lost in moving, and we have not had enough cash to buy another, nor did I know where to send for one. The nearest store is over thirty miles away, and they do not have Bibles.

"One day a man called and asked if we had a Bible. When I told him we did not, he inquired whether I would read it, if one were given to me. I told him I certainly would. He then gave me a beautiful Bible which, he said, the American Bible Society had sent him to give to people situated as I was. Every day since then, I have gathered my children and have read to them out of God's Book.

"I cannot tell you what a blessing it has been to all of us. It has put new courage in our hearts, and we have learned to trust the Lord as never before. The nearest church is thirty miles from us, and they have preaching there only once in a while; so, on Sundays, we have what might be called a church of our own. We read and pray together, and a wonderful change has come over us all. I want to thank the Bible Society for my Bible; and I know there must be many people out here on these plains who have been helped as we have been by receiving a Bible from you. May God bless you."

Soon after the above letter of thanks was received, I referred to it in a public address. At the close of the service, some one told me I should meet the evangelist who had shortly before concluded a series of meetings in that town.

A few weeks later I did meet him, and he told me the story of his conversion and call to the ministry. Several years ago, while working as a ranchhand in Montana, he lived with the family of his employer. During the long winter evenings the man of the house would read several chapters out of the Bible. At first the hired man reluctantly endured the Bible reading. Soon he became interested, and finally decided to buy a Bible of his own and

read it through. After numerous failures to find one in the small towns nearby, he asked his employer where one might be purchased.

The rancher told him that their Bible had been given to them several years before. He said crops had failed, that ranchers were having a hard time when a "sort of missionary" came through that part of the state, giving Bibles to folks who couldn't afford to pay for them, and that their Bible had been a gift. Looking at the title page, they found that it had been printed by the American Bible Society in New York. An order was sent there, and in due time a Bible was received; the hired man began to read; he was led to Christ, and finally entered the evangelistic field, and is now doing much good wherever he goes.

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### The Family Bible

By George P. Morris

THIS book is all that's left me now;  
Tears will unbidden start;  
With faltering lip and throbbing brow  
I press it to my heart.  
For many generations past  
Here was our family tree;  
My mother's hand this Bible clasped:  
She, dying, gave it me.

Ah, well do I remember those  
Whose names these records bear,  
Who, round the hearthstone,  
Used to close after the evening prayer,  
And speak of all these pages said.  
In tones my heart would thrill;  
Though they are with the silent dead,  
Here are they living still.

My father read this holy book  
To brothers, sisters dear;  
How calm was my poor mother's look,  
Who loved God's Word to hear.  
Her angel face, I see it yet,  
What thrilling memories come;  
Again that little band is met  
Within the halls of home.

The mines of earth no treasure give  
That could this volume buy;  
In teaching me the way to live,  
It taught me how to die.

—The United Presbyterian.

• •

ONE of our staff heard a speaker in an address tell of a Jewish woman who said:

I have found my Messiah not in preaching, not in prayer meeting, but in my New Testament in my room.



# Something about 1925 Donations in Japan

	Bibles	Testaments	Portions	Total
To sixty-three hospitals, etc.....	10		6,322	6,332
To twenty-one prisons.....		11,940		11,940
To 119 schools.....			40,453	40,453
To Y. M. C. A., Yokohama.....			1,000	1,000
For newspaper evangelism.....			7,000	7,000
For the blind.....			567	567
For leper hospitals.....	30	111		141
For summer beach preaching at Kamakura.....			1,000	1,000
To individuals .....	20	400	9,748	10,168
To N. C. C. Tokyo evangelistic campaign.....			2,000	2,000
For the Tokyo Hibiya Park Christmas celebration....			5,000	5,000
To individual inmates of prisons.....	13			13
Grand total .....	73	12,451	73,090	85,614

To give an account of all that was involved in effecting the donations tabulated above would make a story in itself too long.

### Hospitals

For instance, in Tokyo and Yokohama with their suburbs, we canvassed 250 hospitals, reformatories and other institutions for physical relief. In 63 of these we had the pleasure of distributing 6,332 copies of God's Book.

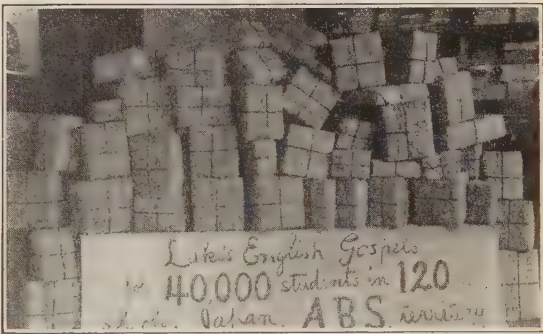
### Prisons

Then, take the item of prisons. As some years had gone by since we donated New Testaments sufficient for every inmate of all prisons in our territory, it was laid on our hearts to do a similar thing this year. The head of the Bureau of Justice was approached and told of our desire and plan. He was pleased with what we proposed to do, and of his own accord said he would send letters to the governors of the prisons advising them to accept our offer. We know he did so, for in the replies we received to letters sent out from the Bible House many governors mentioned that they had heard about this matter from him. All replies received were most courteous and appreciative. Eighteen regular prisons and three prisons for juveniles accepted. Some of them asked for enough to provide each officer with a Testament.

The chief secretary of the Bureau of Justice was deeply interested and favored us with much help in carrying out this work, and became an earnest reader himself of the New Testament. The result was that 11,375 Testaments were placed in 18 regular prisons, and 565 copies in three prisons for juveniles. Total, 11,940 Testaments in 21 prisons.

### Schools

Again regarding donations to schools. As we still had in stock a considerable quantity of the Gospel of Luke in English,—part of what the Home Office favored us with at the time of the great earthquake,—we made a careful



SCRIPTURES FOR SCHOOLS  
Gospels of Luke in English supplied to 40,000 students in 120 schools by our Japan Agency.

investigation of schools in which the study of English was pursued. We were favored with very courteous replies from 119 schools, stating how many copies could be used to advantage. The gratifying result was that 40,453 portions in this way fell into the hands of ambitious young men and women in schools, practically in every part of our territory. We always make it a point to print on the back cover, if space allows (or enclose a slip), informing the reader of the New Testament of which that little book is a part, and how and where



SCRIPTURES IN JAPANESE BRAILLE FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO THE BLIND  
At the left is Mr. Akimoto, who, himself blind, made most of the Braille plates for the whole Japanese Bible.





**BLIND STUDENTS AT A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Made happy by the possession of Braille type portions of Scriptures presented by the Japanese Agency.

it can be obtained. Therefore, from this seed sowing also nearly every day the mail brings to the Bible House orders for Testaments in both Japanese and English. Some letters accompanying these orders are very amusing; some reveal a true heart hunger for the faith that will put them in vital touch with the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **The Blind**

Among many incidents of interest the following is a sample: We found 19 blind folk among the inmates of the Tokyo City Old People's Home. Not one of them could read, but many were eager to learn. We made a grant of 10 books to this sad group on condition that they would learn to read. Immediately an earnest Christian volunteered to instruct them in the reading of those books. Truly, it can be said that this became an outstanding event in the lives of these poor men. They were extremely moved and excited. Can it be imagined what this incident will mean to them?



**A PART OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, HIBIYA PARK, TOKYO**

"They listened most profoundly to an exceedingly impressive program in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ."

#### **The Hibiya Park Christmas Celebration**

Only one more item in the list of donations can be touched upon, and that is the 5,000 portions given to the Tokyo Hibiya Park Christmas celebration. The Y. M. C. A. took the lead in arranging for this public celebration of the birth of our Christ. The weather was favorable, and the large place for regular entertainments in the park was filled with people of all classes. The quietness and attention on the part of those many thousands of people were impressive. The singing, prayers, Bible reading and

speeches,—all were truly attuned to the occasion. The writer, amidst the audience, in his



**CHRISTIAN YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY DISTRIBUTE 5,000 PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURES DONATED BY THE JAPAN AGENCY AT THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, HIBIYA PARK, TOKYO**

heart rejoiced and praised God for the large place the Lord Jesus Christ has won in the thinking, admiration, and faith of this people. Christ is being intellectually crowned by millions of them. God speed the day when he is truly crowned Lord of hearts and lives of equally as many millions.

It gave us great pleasure to see how young Christian men and women enthusiastically made it their business to get the 5,000 portions into the hands of the people. That the good seed fell in much good soil is unquestionable.

May God's blessing be on the 73 Bibles, 12,451 Testaments, and 73,090 portions of Scripture donated during 1925 by the Japan Agency.



## "The Third and Fourth Generations"

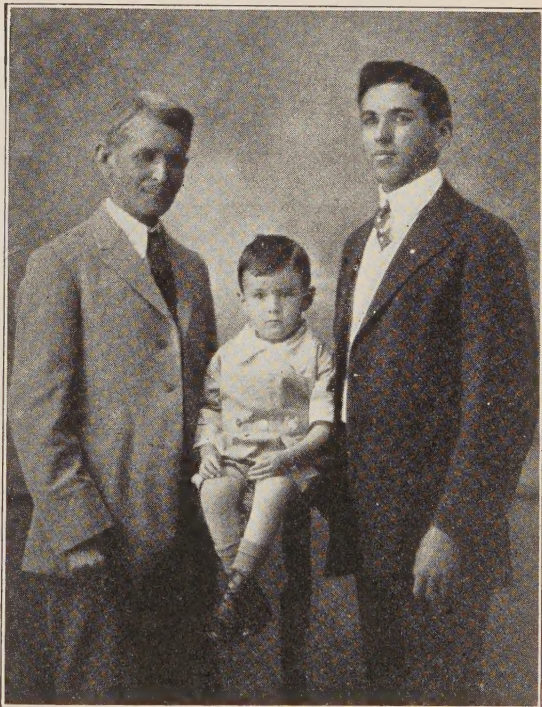
*Mr. H. T. Marroquín, a native Mexican, has been for six years in the employ of the Mexico Agency of the American Bible Society. In March of 1925 he visited the Society's headquarters in New York, and attended the meetings of the Conference of Home Agencies' Secretaries. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church in the city of Mexico, and a graduate of the mission school of that church. While not an ordained minister, he has worked as pastor of Mexican congregations in the state of Texas, and there learned English. The following from his pen appears in the annual report from the Mexico Agency for the year 1925.*

"IT was a special privilege for me to visit the headquarters of the American Bible Society last March, and to meet the officers there. I was also very glad to be able to attend the Conference of Home Agencies' Secretaries. The attentions given me were the same as those given to all the Secretaries, and I considered this a great distinction; for I was only an humble employee of a Foreign Agency visiting there.

"I thanked God for the opportunity he was giving me of visiting the headquarters of this noble institution, whose 110 years of uninterrupted and always increasing work has been such a blessing to the nations of the world. I thanked God in my heart, since from this very place went out the Bible that strengthened the faith of my mother's father, whose Christian example I well remember; the book that encouraged the faith of my mother, and that was the first book in which my father learned to read at the age of thirty-five; the same book that nourished the faith of us ten brothers and sisters; the very same Bible from which I now read to my dear wife and children in our family prayers.

"For what the American Bible Society has meant to my family in four generations, and to my fellow countrymen, I do thank God. It has certainly given us the greatest of treasures. It has shown us the way, the truth and the life through the holy Scriptures. May God bless the American Bible Society, and

may the day soon come when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."



MR. MARROQUIN, ON THE RIGHT, HIS FATHER ON THE LEFT, AND HIS LITTLE SON IN THE MIDDLE.

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## Notes and Comments

A JAPAN number is an appropriate sequence to a China number. We have been fortunate in just receiving an influx of good material, with an unusual number of attractive pictures from the picture land of Japan.

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OUR Treasurer announces a very interesting fact. The Society now has annuitants who were born on every day of the year, including February 29, and excepting only February 17,

July 21, August 28, and December 22. Any readers born on one of these dates, or who have friends so born, have the opportunity to help fill up the whole year. We would then be able to say that the sun can neither rise nor set without marking the birthday of one of our annuitants.

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THE Board of Managers, as reported in the minutes of the March meeting, elected as Life Members, for services rendered, the minis-



terial members of its standing committees. Technically, they had not been eligible to vote at the meetings of the Board, though their counsel had always been sought and welcomed. Under the authority given the Board by its by-laws, the action has been taken. Ministers who are Life Members of the Society and who are not employed by it, have the full privileges of managers at the meetings of the Board. The Rev. Drs. H. A. Stimson, Frank Mason North and Robert Scott Inglis, and the Rev. Frederick W. Jackson were already Life Members, before they had been appointed to Committees, and had the status of Managers.

CAN anyone duplicate this record? One of the members of our Board of Managers states that his father and mother were both Life Members of the American Bible Society and made their nine sons and daughters also Life Members. He, in his turn, has made his four children Life Members.

THE Rev. W. J. McMillan, D.D., of Baltimore, a leading minister of the Presbyterian Church in the South, who represents it on the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society and was the chairman of the council at its meeting in December, has sent us this fine message:

Permit me as the representative of the Presbyterian Church (U. S.) to say: I have never heard reports that were more excellent, business-like in every detail, and more informing, than those that were presented to the Advisory Council by the members of the Bible House staff. Nor have I ever come in contact with an official force that were more conscientious and painstaking in the administration of the affairs committed to them, than the staff of the American Bible Society of New York.

WHAT devotion there is often back of gifts that help spread the Scriptures is indicated by the following incident, related by one of our donors, whose sister lives in Canada and is also a lover of the Word:

A strong appeal had been made by the Canadian Bible Society, and at a large meeting, sitting beside her husband, my sister passed her small diamond engagement ring to him. But he only held it in his hand, and when they were home and had prayed over it, they decided to write to a friend who was a jeweler to ask him to buy it. He wrote them to send it to him, and then he sent them a check for \$400—probably twice as much at that time as the diamond was worth. Then he returned the ring to Mr. —, which surely was the Lord's own way of transacting business. For He knew the need of the cause and also the desires of their hearts, and appreciated the ring as He did the mites. I wish He might specially bless my \$2, for he knows the awful need now for the spread of his word. I wish and pray too that He will specially bless all the service of your staff at the Bible House.

## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS ..... *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, MAY, 1926

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
Bible House, Astor Place, New York

### APRIL MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE twelfth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and tenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, April 1, 1926, at 3:30 o'clock p.m., President E. Francis Hyde in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. F. W. Jackson.

The minutes of the eleventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers were presented and approved.

Mrs. John Ferguson was elected a member of the Board of Managers.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, resolutions recommended by these committees being adopted.

The agreement between the Brooklyn Bible Society and the American Bible Society was renewed for a term of three years.

Furloughs were sanctioned in the usual course for the Rev. W. F. Jordan, of the Upper Andes Agency, and the Rev. Dr. J. Oscar Boyd, of the Arabic-Levant Agency.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during the month of March, 1926: Brazil, 1,285 volumes, valued at \$847.53; Caribbean, 28,418 volumes, valued at \$2,402.36; La Plata, 50,112 volumes, valued at \$1,060.32; Mexico, 15 volumes, valued at \$35.79; Upper Andes, 4,384 volumes, valued at \$326.48; West Indies, 45,057 volumes, valued at \$1,248.97; total volumes, 129,271; total value, \$5,921.45.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of March were 329,942 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

### FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY

*I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of—*

If real estate is given, for the last three words above, "the sum of," substitute the words "the following property, to wit."



# CASH RECEIPTS IN MARCH, 1926

## LEGACIES

Akers, Narcissa D., late of Springfield, Ill. ....	\$2,000 00
Borden, Wm. W., late of Chicago, Ill. ....	187 50
Elliott, Isaac Wm., late of Unity, Sask., Canada....	613 71
Harriot, Mary A., late of New York, N. Y. ....	66 18
Houston, Churchill ..... 1,083 51	
Kilpatrick, Wm., late of Morning Sun, Iowa.....	50 00
McGregor, Mary, late of Gloversville, N. Y.....	1,000 00
	<u>\$5,000 90</u>

Received on Dona- tion Account ....	\$ 475 57
	<u>\$2,136 33</u>

## HOME AGENCIES

Atlantic .....	\$ 4,969 92
Central .....	3,675 20
Colored People of U. S. A. ....	1,142 65
Eastern .....	2,902 37
National Capital .....	172 53
Northwestern .....	4,796 31
Pacific .....	2,061 60
South Atlantic .....	1,818 06
Southwestern .....	1,908 15
Western .....	2,246 26
	<u>\$25,693 05</u>

## From Home Agencies and Included in Home Agencies Receipts

Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies:	
Pennsylvania Bible So- ciety .....	\$133 34
Gifts from Churches.....	271 68
Gifts from Individuals.....	740 91

## RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Williams, Rev. Dr. R. L.. \$ 9 51	
American Sunday School Union .....	1,249 44
Swan, E. S. S.....	1 00
Board of National Missions Presbyterian Church.....	50 65
Smith, Rev. C. E.....	96
	<u>\$1,311 56</u>

## TRUST FUNDS PERMANENT

From Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Howard to be known as "The Earl Vincent De- pew and daughter Claire Howard Depew Trust Fund" .....	\$ 25 00
Thomas H. Ham, late of Albany, N. Y., to be known as the "Thomas H. Ham and Caroline Fowler Ham Trust Fund" .....	50,856 72
	<u>\$50,881 72</u>

## RECAPITULATION

Legacies .....	\$ 5,000 90
Gifts Subject to Life In- terest .....	32,881 65
Auxiliary Societies, Dona- tion Account .....	475 57
Auxiliary Societies, Book Account .....	1,660 76
Home Agencies .....	25,693 05
Returns from Scriptures Donated .....	1,311 56
Trust Funds Permanent..	50,881 72
	<u>\$117,905 21</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS

The Trade .....	\$ 556 09
Scriptures to the Blind...	84 29
Manufacturing Credits...	30 41
Bible House .....	10,903 53
Gifts to the Blind from Individuals .....	10 00
Gifts from Churches.....	15,766 58
Gifts from Individuals.....	13,281 55
Bible Society Record....	9 00
Diffusion of Information..	14 33
Annuity Department ....	21,420 09
Income from Available In- vestments .....	1,550 16
Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds....	23,889 55
Funds for transmission...	252 67
J. Burr Legacy, Income...	526 31
Alden Memorial Fund....	12 66
Alex W. Ogg Legacy, In- come .....	182 29
Legacy Equalization Ac- count .....	929 44
Special Annuity Income and Expense .....	461 80
Japan Earthquake Fund from Individuals .....	21 00
Surplus Account .....	2 36
Margaret O. Sage Legacy	22,500 00
	<u>\$112,404 11</u>

Total Cash Receipts...\$230,309 32

## JOURNAL ENTRIES

Gifts Subject to Life In- terest—Liberty Bonds, at par value—received dur- ing the month .....	\$ 700 00
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# CASH STATEMENT FOR MARCH, 1926

## GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

### RECEIPTS

Balance from February, 1926.....	\$57,655 48
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	475 57
Auxiliaries .....	1,660 76
Trade .....	556 09
Scriptures to the Blind.....	84 29
Manufacturing Credits.....	30 41
Annuity Account .....	32,881 65
Bible House Rentals.....	10,903 53
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	10 00
Gifts from Churches.....	15,766 58
Gifts from Individuals.....	13,281 55
Bible Society Record.....	9 00
Japan Earthquake Fund.....	21 00
Alden Memorial Fund Income.....	12 66
Ogg Legacy Income.....	182 29
Burr Legacy Income.....	526 31
Sage Legacy .....	22,500 00
Funds received for Transmission.....	252 67
Trust Funds Permanent—General Purpose..	50,881 72
Legacy Equalization Fund.....	929 44
Home Agencies .....	25,693 05
Diffusion of Information.....	14 33
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	23,889 55
Annuity Department .....	21,420 09
Incomes from Available Investment.....	1,550 16
Legacies .....	5,000 90
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	1,311 56
Special Annuity—Income and Expense Acc't..	461 80
Surplus .....	2 36

\$287,964 80

### DISBURSEMENTS

Bills of Exchange.....	\$21,754 00
General Salaries and Expenses.....	4,227 73
Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses...	1,302 34
Bible House Expenses.....	6,045 21
Appeals .....	1,244 19
Diffusion of Information.....	1,458 97
Annuity Department .....	18,810 93
Bible Society Record.....	184 00
Available Investments .....	40,000 00
Cash reserved for Publication Department...	38,756 88
Home Agencies .....	12,597 43
Foreign Agencies .....	6,586 06
Funds received for Transmission.....	52 67
Blind Fund .....	1 35
United States Trust Co.—Annuity Account...	39,330 00
Japan Earthquake Fund.....	5 22
Miscellaneous Home .....	1 98
Miscellaneous Foreign .....	1,262 50
Church Budget Costs.....	372 88
Payments to Auxiliaries.....	170 85
Legacy Expenses .....	183 70
Library .....	25 50
Broadcasting .....	46 50
Gifts from Churches.....	26 95
Special Annuity Income and Expense Acc't...	195 00
Balance to April, 1926.....	93,321 96

\$287,964 80

## PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from February, 1926.....	\$ 1,414 69
Transferred from General Cash.....	38,756 88

\$40,171 57

Publication Department.....	\$39,020 33
Balance to April, 1926.....	1,151 24

\$40,171 57

Total Cash Balance.....\$94,473 20



# BIBLES BONDS

The American Bible Society annuity bonds offer careful investors:

1. A convenient, safe and profitable financial investment during life. (Rates run as high as 9%.)
2. The privilege of making an enduring gift to help spread abroad the Word of God. (While other things perish the Word of God endures.)

Funds received by the American Bible Society on the annuity basis help this Society in its important missionary work of *translating, publishing and distributing* the Scriptures "without note or comment" in scores of different languages and dialects.

These activities underlie all Christian work both at home and abroad. Unless we supply "Every man in his own tongue" with the Scriptures, how will the people learn to know and follow their Saviour?

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